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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

17 All discovery in this case has been referred by the district court (Hon. Phyllis J.  
18 Hamilton) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(b) and Civil Local Rule 72. The parties met and  
19 conferred, but were unable to resolve this discovery dispute. Plaintiff moves for leave to  
20 continue the deposition of Dr. Martin Roberts, an 87-year-old non-party witness, who was  
21 deposed for five hours on August 13, 2007. Defendant opposes the motion. This Court  
22 finds this matter suitable for decision without oral argument as provided by Civil Local Rule  
23 7-1(b). The Court considered the parties' Joint Statement, filed October 29, and hereby  
24 denies the motion.

25 Dr. Martin Roberts is an expert in the field of peritoneal dialysis, the area of the  
26 patented device at issue in this lawsuit, and a consulting expert for Defendants. During the  
27 course of his deposition, he denied that he had done any consulting work for Plaintiff, which  
28 he recanted afterwards, by submitting an erratum in which he admitted consulting for

1 Baxter between 1999-2002, work he described as informal reporting services provided to  
2 Baxter employees, nearly two decades after his work on the prior art peritoneal dialysis  
3 system. Plaintiffs now want to question him in person on the subject of his work and  
4 communications with Baxter and the documents produced after his deposition. Defendants  
5 offer to permit further deposition by written questions, but Plaintiffs reject that option.

6 Plaintiffs' main contention that Defendants allegedly violated Civil Local Rule 30-1 by  
7 noticing Dr. Roberts' deposition without first meeting and conferring with Plaintiffs' counsel.  
8 Defendants notified Plaintiffs on July 30, 2007, of the deposition to proceed on August 13,  
9 2007.

10 Plaintiffs admittedly failed to calendar the deposition, although they allege that  
11 Defendants failed to confer with them as to the date. They admit that they were served with  
12 notice on July 30, but complain that defense counsel only called them minutes before the  
13 deposition was due to start. (Joint Statement at 1) Plaintiffs contend they had "no idea" the  
14 deposition was proceeding on the noticed date. This is inconsistent with their admission  
15 that Defendants served notice on July 30, two weeks prior to the date of the deposition.

16 Defendants claim they accommodated Plaintiffs as best they could in that they (1)  
17 postponed the deposition for four hours to enable Plaintiffs' counsel to appear; (2) provided  
18 a telephonic and LiveNote connection for Plaintiffs; (3) identified every exhibit that would be  
19 used in the deposition in advance so that Plaintiffs could prepare an effective cross-  
20 examination; (4) sent Plaintiffs color scans of the few exhibits Dr. Roberts created during  
21 his direct examination so that he could be cross-examined on them; (5) offered Dr. Roberts  
22 for a second day so that Plaintiffs could either send a lawyer from Baxter's counsel's Los  
23 Angeles office or fly someone out and finish the questioning in person; and (6) allowed the  
24 deposition to run until after 6 p.m. (Dr. Roberts arrived for his deposition at 8:00 a.m.),  
25 when Plaintiffs chose to forego a second deposition day. (Joint Statement at 4). Total  
26 deposition duration was from approximately 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

27 Plaintiffs' claim that they did not know Dr. Roberts was a consultant for Baxter is not  
28 credible given his appearance on their initial disclosures. Plaintiffs had more than enough

1 notice, by their own admission, to contact defense counsel if the deposition arrangements  
2 were inconvenient. The procedural misfeasance of Defendants with respect to Civil Local  
3 Rule 30-1 is mitigated by their accommodations to Plaintiffs and on balance does not  
4 outweigh Plaintiffs' own failure to act and the potential inconvenience of a repeat deposition  
5 to an elderly witness. The Court finds that Plaintiffs fail to justify a "second bite of the  
6 apple." The motion to compel further deposition is denied.

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

8 DATED: November 6, 2007

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10 \_\_\_\_\_/s/  
11 JAMES LARSON  
12 Chief Magistrate Judge  
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